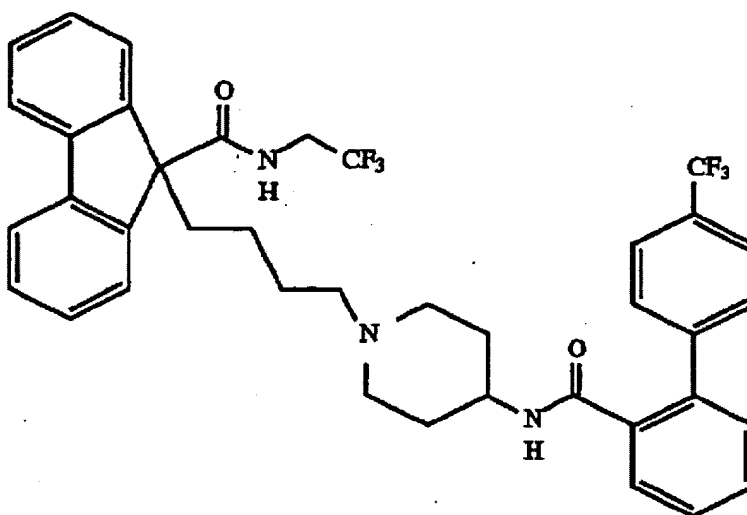


**In the claims:**

1. (Previously Presented) A method of treating a subject suffering hyperlipidemia or hypercholesterolemia, the method comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of an MTP inhibitor, wherein said administration comprises at least three step-wise, increasing dose levels of the MTP inhibitors wherein a first dose level is from about 2 to about 13 mg/day, a second dose level is from about 5 to about 30mg/day, and a third dose level is from about 10 to about 50 mg/day; and wherein the MTP inhibitor is represented by:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof or the piperidine N-oxide thereof, and wherein each dose level is administered to the subject for about 1 to 4 weeks.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the disorder is severe hypercholesterolemia.

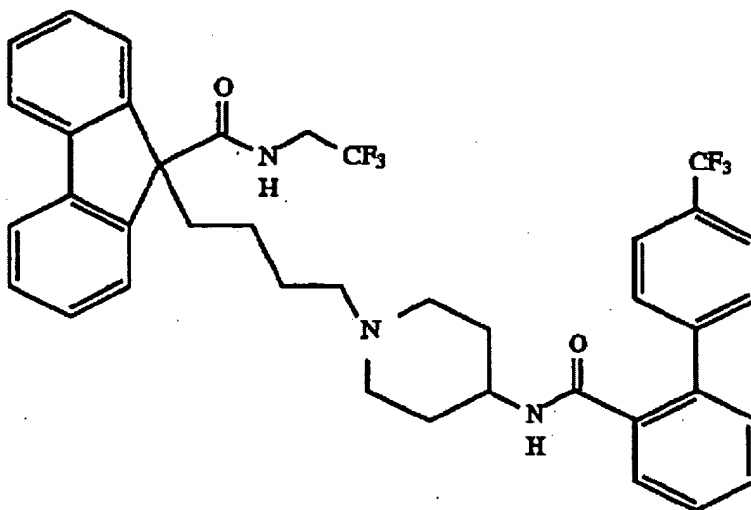
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein one or more of Total Cholesterol, LDL, fasting triglycerides (TG), VLDL, lipoprotein (a) (Lp(a)), and-lipoprotein B are reduced by at least 15%, compared to control levels.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein one or more of Total Cholesterol, LDL, fasting triglycerides (TG), VLDL, lipoprotein (a) (Lp(a)), and-lipoprotein B are reduced by at least 25%, compared to control levels.

5. (Canceled)
6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the MTP inhibitor is administered orally.
7. (Canceled)
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said increasing dose levels further comprise a fourth dose level.
9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said increasing dose levels further comprise a fourth and a fifth dose level.
- 10.-15. (Canceled)
16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said MTP inhibitor is administered to said subject in combination with a further compound selected from the group consisting of: HMG CoA reductase inhibitors, cholesterol absorption inhibitors, ezetimibe, squalene synthetase inhibitors, fibrates, bile acid sequestrants, statins, probucol, niacin, thiazolidinediones, and cholesterol ester transfer protein (CETP) inhibitors.
17. (Canceled)
18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the MTP inhibitor and the further compound are present in the same dosage unit.
- 19.-25. (Canceled).
26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the increasing dose levels comprise a fourth dose level from about 20 to about 60 mg/day and a fifth dose level from about 30 to about 75mg/day.

27. (Previously Presented) A method of treating hyperlipidemia or hypercholesterolemia in a subject in need thereof, comprising:

initially administering to the subject a first dose level of about 2 to about 13 mg/day of a compound represented by:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof or the piperidine N-oxide thereof, for about 1 week to about 4 weeks,

administering an increasing second and third dose level of the compound for about 1 week to about 4 weeks each, wherein said second and third dose level are no more than 50% of the immediately following dose level.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the further compound is ezetimibe.